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Computer and Internet Security Topics for Teens - A Basic Security Guide for the Most Connected Generation

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Chapter 1 by JohnnyX

How a Computer Works

Yes, pretty much every computer related book starts out with a basic section on how computers work. You can't avoid it. Thing is, though, they are all very boring and chances are that the great majority of them have never been read by a single soul, and for good reason! I would imagine this is probably due to the fact that the authors never really intend for them to be read, adding them only due to the fact that such sections are considered to be required by the publishing industry. Thus, they tend to be overly long and drawn out while not really explaining the essentials that relate to the topic at hand.

Well, fortunately for you, we self publishers aren't held to the same rules (or standards, which is unfortunate in some cases) so we can do as we wish. Oh, and since you, as the reader, aren't held to any rules either, feel free to skip whichever sections you wish. I know you have lots of other things to do, but remember, ceiling cat is watching!

Hardware

Software

OS, apps

Security Concepts

There are hundreds, if not thousands, of books which address the myriad topics relevant to keeping information secure on the internet. Fortunately, you won't need to read a single one in order to keep yourself relatively safe while enjoying all of the freedoms available via the interwebs.

That said, It does pay to have a good understanding of the core concepts of information security, as there is virtually nothing we do without interacting with information systems in some form or fashion.

For example, take a typical Saturday evening - your BFF calls at 5:30 and begs you to take her and a new friend to the opening night of a popular movie at the local theater. Pretty simple - you buy tix, pick everyone up, visit the theater, watch the movie, hit the nearest coffee shop for a latte, then head home. Nothing to it, right? Maybe. This simple trip could involve many of the following types of transactions with information systems:

At home - log on to local computer to access web browser, establish secure connection to ticket site, utilize (parents) credit card to purchase tickets.

On the way to theater - Your BFF (whom you have already picked up) utilizes map app to get directions to your new friends house.

At the theater - txt friends and update status on social media sites, engage in pre-movie on-screen trivia

While watching the movie - TURN YOUR PHONE OFF AND WATCH! You just paid a small fortune for tix DUH!

At the coffee shop - use vendor specific app, or a third-party wallet app to redeem coupon or make payment. Update social media status, txt friends, check email.

On the way home - of course you put your phone away while driving :-)

OK, so what? Well, I don't want to bore you straight out of the gate, so without too much

technical blah blah, here's what's actually happening in each situation.

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The Tools We Use

Instant and Video Chat

Apps

Streaming Media

Social Networking

Access Control and

Accounts and Passwords

Biometrics

Social Media

Privacy

The Law

Threats

Back it Up!

Utilize cloud storage technologies such as Google drive, dropbox, Amazon cloud, and Microsoft Onedrive.

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